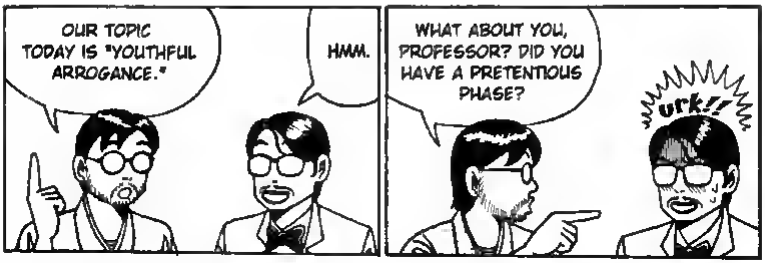
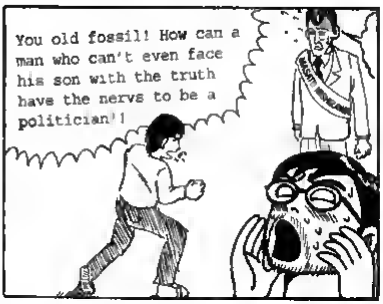


We must distance ourselves from mass media
Independent magazines must
So as long as we are independent we must remain guerillas waging war against mass media.
Independent magazines that bow down to the commercialists are truly meaningless and shallow

Actual mini-comic ("Skyscraper") by Kentaro Takekuma written in high school ▲



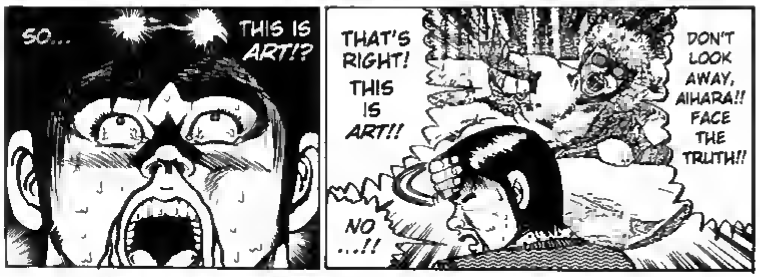
"Rusted Chains" by Koji Aihara, drawn in high school ▲

Lesson 7
YOUTHFUL ARROGANCE
AND SO IN THIS CHAPTER WE COVER "YOUTHFUL ARROGANCE"!!
You don't deserve to be elected!
At this rate, Takashi's gonna be a goner. Drug addicts can get really violent, you know!
Not only does he look like a snitch...
Jump On That attacked someone
You don't deserve
You don't deserve
You don't deserve
You don't deserve
Why don't you take care of your son first!
War is the national
the super realistic
Rise!! Now is the time to rise!!

TO ACCOMPLISH OUR DREAM, WE MUST STUDY AND EMULATE BEST-SELLING MANGA!!
DREAM... HUH?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING SO WORKED UP OVER OUR DREAM? I MEAN, AREN'T WE JUST SUBMITTING OURSELVES TO THE COMMERCIALISM OF THE ESTABLISHMENT WHICH IS COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY CAPITALISM?
WH-WHAT'S UP AIHARA...?
MANGA CULTURE MIGHT ENJOY INCREDIBLE SUCCESS, BUT IT'S A DEGRADED FORM THAT FEEDS INTO A SHALLOW CULTURE THAT'S ONLY MEANT TO ENCOURAGE US TO WASTE OUR TIME.
WHY? BECAUSE MANGA IS CORRUPTED BY COMMERCIALISM AND ONLY ENDS UP MEETING THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR IN MASS TASTE!!
URRR URRR
WE HAVE THIS WONDERFUL MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION CALED MANGA, YET WE'RE LETTING IT BE DETERMINED BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, CRUSHING ITS POTENTIAL—AND OUR OWN!
GRRR GRRR
MANGA IS...*AN ART!!* I WANT TO DRAW MANGA THAT HAS MORE...*SOCIAL IMPACT*, SOMETHING THAT CAN HAVE *EVERLASTING VALUE*, RATHER THAN JUST SELL OUT TO THE MASSES.
FWISH!

AYAAAAAH!!
FWISHHHH
ART!?
ART!?
ART!?
KRAK
THOK
KRAK
ALRIGHT, TELL ME WHAT YOU MEAN BY ART! HUH? TELL ME!!
UHH...
WELL... UH... THAT IS... THE INNER TRUTH OF HUMANS... Y'KNOW I MEAN...
"INNER TRUTH," HUH?

HA HA HA HA HA!!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL ART!?
HEE HEE HEE
INNER TRUTH!? GIMME A BREAK!!
WH-WHAT'S SO FUNNY...
THAT'S NOT ART!! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ART IS!! YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY YOU WANT TO MAKE ART, WHEN YOU HAVE NO IDEA AT ALL WHAT IT REALLY IS!!
URR...
YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT! YOU JUST THINK THAT IT'S SOMETHING WITH "CLASS," DON'T YOU!? THAT'S WHY YOU CAN ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!!
GRRR
YOU JUST WANT THE ELITE ESTABLISHMENT TO ACCEPT YOUR WORK AS REFINED!! THAT'S ALL YOU WANT—IS ACCEPTANCE!! YOU'RE JUST A SLAVE TO POWER!!
URRR...
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT ART IS.
I WILL SHOW YOU *THE TRUE NATURE OF ART.* ONLY THEN WILL YOU REALIZE YOUR FOLLY!
FWIK
FWIK
FWIK
FWIK
THIS IS ART!!



I'M SORRY!! I WAS WRONG!! I WAS JUST LOSING CONFIDENCE IN OUR DREAMS, SO I STARTED RAMBLING ON ABOUT ART...
HEY, IT'S ALL RIGHT AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND. LET'S NOT GIVE UP THOUGH ON...

MOTHER & CHILD LIFE LESSON!

"Art" is always curable!

By Teizo Kato
(famous hot-line counselor)

Watch out if your big-hit-manga-artist-aspiring child starts pledging his allegiance to "Art." Remember. *Art is the spiritual cancer of adolescence*. Art will first start by eating away at your child's brain; then, gradually, he will do anything for the sake of art, destroying his social life. The day he ruins the rest of his family is the day he becomes an artist.

In order to prevent this, you must make sure you communicate with him openly every day. The entire family should get up early, turn towards Mount Fuji and chant "Effort, Friendship, Victory."

Proper spiritual guidance will lead the way to help your child become a big-hit manga artist. If the child still shows a yearning for "Art," tell him casually, "You know, I used to feel the same way when I was your age."

Tell them no one's interested in what manga artists have to say if their work doesn't sell. Tell them to be courageous despite the hardships they will face. You're only young once. You can always do Art once you overcome the hardship and become financially successful. That's how you fool them. Don't worry, once his work turns out to be a certified megahit, your child will naturally distance himself from Art.

Q: **Can I become a manga artist even though I can't draw?**

A: You can. After all, drawings done by chimpanzees actually exist in this world after all, so as long as you're a primate then theoretically you can draw manga.

You say you can't draw, but my guess is that you can—it's just that the quality is poor. If that's the case, you have absolutely nothing to worry about.

I mean, I hate to say it, but if good drawing was necessary to become a manga artist then...

Poor Drawing as a Style

We already mentioned in Lesson 4 ("Figure Drawing," p. 23) that manga is made up of symbols. So the important thing to keep in mind when drawing manga isn't so much the *quality* of the drawing but whether *meaning* is being effectively communicated to the reader.

To put it in extreme terms, a circle with two dots inside it can stand in for a human face. You might think this childish nonsense, but that's how manga professionals work. The only difference with them is that the combination of symbols is more sophisticated.

The only way to learn these symbols is to copy them over and over. It's no different from imitating your parents when you learned how to speak. In fact, it's better to be a little "deficient," because your drawings will end up different and therefore unique.

There are successful pros whose uniqueness got in their way, so much so that no one noticed their attempts to follow in the footsteps of Katsuhiro Otomo—like Mr. (63 letters omitted). So don't waste your time fretting over the poor quality of your drawings.

Only the poor can appreciate riches. So just hold your chin up, proceed with the utmost confidence, and you'll be fine.

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